Navigating MCAD

An Introduction to Using My Course Analytics Dashboard

Last revision: December 2020
This tutorial serves as an introduction to using My Course Analytics Dashboard (MCAD), which can be accessed at cfe.unc.edu/mcad/. This site, hosted by the Center for Faculty Excellence, includes a variety of resources designed to help instructors make the most of the course data available through this tool.
Under How to Access MCAD, select either I am a returning user or I am a new user. New users will be directed to the required orientation module in Sakai. Returning users will be directed to their personal MCAD account.
You will be asked to log in with your ONYEN, and may be asked to Duo authenticate as well.
After you have completed the MCAD orientation in Sakai, you can also access My Course Analytics Dashboard through the University’s Carolina Analytics Portal at [https://analytics.unc.edu/](https://analytics.unc.edu/).
Select the View Dashboard link to access your MCAD course data.
This is the landing page for MCAD. The Resources box at the bottom left includes links to the MCAD Navigation primer and a short orientation video about Tableau, the data visualization software used to create the current version of the MCAD interface.
Begin by selecting the semester(s), course(s), and course section(s) you want to explore. If you leave the filters set to All, the search will show the aggregate data for all courses you have taught at UNC.
To set and save a filter (e.g. Term Year), select your preference and then Apply.
The Global Filters icon appears on each page. You can use this tool at any time to set or change filters for the data you are exploring.
These are the demographic variables available under Global Filters.
Once you have selected your courses, you can learn more about the students who enrolled in those courses (Demographics), their grade distributions by demographic (Grade Distribution), and grade distribution averages across multiple semesters (Grade Trends). You can also create your own custom data views (Custom Reporting).
The Demo Mode option allows you to demonstrate the MCAD to colleagues without having to worry about displaying actual course data. When Demo Mode is on, the data displayed is fictional.

NOTE: When Demo Mode is on, the text Demo Mode is ON will be displayed on all the pages.
The Demographics tab provides an overview of student demographics for the courses you have selected. If you do not select a specific course and semester, this data will represent the demographic profile for all courses you have taught at UNC.
You can compare the demographic breakdown of your course(s) to the University's by placing your cursor over any of the demographic data. In this example, the cursor is placed over the area of the screen showing the number and percentage of females. The pop-up box includes the gender breakdown for all University students.
Selecting the information icon next any of the data visualizations will display a data definition for that demographic variable.
TIP: You can return to the MCAD landing page at any point by clicking on the Home icon at the top left of the page.
The Grade Distribution tab allows you to look at aggregate grade distribution for the courses you have selected by demographic variables. Use the drop-down menu under View by Demographic to select your filter.
TIP: The **View by Grade Range** drop-down menu gives you the option to see your distributions by + and – letter grades as well.
The View Crosstabs button displays the data in a spreadsheet format. Hide Crosstab toggles back to the graphical view.
The Grade Trends tab provides a view of grade point averages and grade categories (ABC vs DFW rates) across multiple semesters. Again, you can use the Filters tool (top right corner) to further refine your data view.
The Custom Reporting tab provides the most flexibility for customizing filters and parameters. Selecting the Custom Reporting Compare tab opens an additional Custom Reporting tab in your browser that can be used to facilitate comparisons between custom reports.
The View by Data Format drop-down menu provides you with multiple format options for viewing your custom report. Note that cross tab reports can NOT be downloaded through MCAD.
Use the View by Demographic drop-down menu to pick a primary demographic filter. Again, you can apply additional filters through the global filters tool at the top right.
In order to help you keep track of the filters you have selected for each custom report, they appear above the data visualization graphs. In this view, for example, the data represents a course (Test100) taught during the spring and the aggregate grade distribution by admit type (first-year, transfer) for male students.